



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE arrests and deports international fugitive *Chilean national wanted by Interpol for drunk driving homicide*

CHICAGO—A 34-year-old Chilean national wanted by Interpol on charges for killing someone while driving drunk in Chile was deported there yesterday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Enrique Ignacio Tapia-Balladares, an illegal alien with numerous DUI convictions in Wisconsin, is wanted for causing a death while driving drunk in Santiago, Chile. According to Interpol, Tapia-Balladares fled Chile for the U.S. in October 2001 to escape criminal prosecution in the case. ICE deported him yesterday to Santiago, Chile, and turned him over to Chilean authorities to face criminal charges there.



ICE agents first encountered Tapia-Balladares at the Columbia County Jail in May while he was serving a 90-day sentence for Operating While Intoxicated. ICE placed a detainer on Tapia-Balladares to ensure that he would be turned over to ICE for deportation upon completion of his prison sentence. During a review of the case, ICE agents discovered that Interpol wanted Tapia-Balladares on outstanding criminal charges in Chile.

Tapia-Balladares admitted in an interview that he had last entered the U.S. Oct. 14, 2001 on a tourist visa and had illegally remained in the U.S. after his visa expired. He was residing in De Forest, Wis., and has four convictions for Operating While Intoxicated in the State of Wisconsin and two domestic violence convictions.

“This arrest is an excellent example of how a unified approach to law enforcement works internationally,” said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Chicago. “Our ICE agents work diligently to ensure that the United States isn’t a safe haven for fugitive criminals from around the world.” Brown oversees ICE’s investigative program in a six-state area including: Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and Missouri.

This deportation is part of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan by the Department of Homeland Security to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. Under SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.